Technology for Operation of Freight Services

3556. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the status on development of technology for operation of 4500 ft. freight services at double the existing speed; and

(b) whether any plan has been formulated for bulk movement of fertilizers from Hazira to consuming centres in the North ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Based on a pilot study undertaken, the technology and other inputs necessary to achieve the objective of doubling the average speed of 4500 ft. freight trains have been identified and necessary follow-up action is being initiated.

(b) No, Sir.

Forcible Eviction and Charging of Market Rent from Retd. Senior Officer

3557. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Directorate of Estates is pursuing cases or realisation of alleged market rents against some of retired senior officers of Government of India and others who had retained their respective bungalows on the orders of the Government in 1989 or performing important Government duties assigned to them after retirement;

(b) whether some of those who retained their houses for the purpose of Government duties and on the orders of the then Government in 1989 were forcibly evicted by a section of officials in the Directorate to defy the Government orders;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what further action is proposed to be taken against those who had defied Government orders of 1989 ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

School for Physically Handicapped

3558. SHRI JAGADISH JANI : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up special schools in diefferent States to provide education to the physically handicapped children;

(b) if so, what is the number of such schools which are proposed to be funded by Government in Orissa;

(c) whether any such school is proposed to be set up in the tribal areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid down on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

'DHOBI' as a Scheduled Caste

3559. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether 'Dhobi' community has been included in the list of Scheduled Castes in all the States and Union Territories;

(b) whether this Caste has been excluded from the list in the State of Maharashtra;

(c) if so, the reason therefor; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken to restore the reservation facilities to the members of this Caste ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Dhobis have been included in the lists of Scheduled Castes in 13 States and one Union Territory.

(b) Dhobis have not been included in the list of Scheduled Castes in Maharashtra.

(c) The social condition of a caste varies from State to State and even areas within a State.